

Minutes of the Work Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held March 16, 2016 at the Administration Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Those present: Jae Potter, Commission Chair
Casey Hopes, Commissioner
Jake Mellor, Commissioner

Also present: Seth Oveson, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Deputy Clerk
Christian Bryner, Attorney
Debby Kobe, Director Senior Center
Julie Medley, Assessor
Kay Colosimo, Treasurer
Kathy Hanna Smith, Price City Councilman

Clerk's Certificate of Compliance with Open Meeting Law was filed.

Commissioner Potter welcomed everyone to the Work Meeting. The meeting began at 3:04 p.m.

1) **Discussion concerning Building Rental Policy for Carbon County Senior Center and use of office space – Debby Kobe**

Commissioner Hopes said the Council on Aging is required to meet and discuss what is happening at the Senior Center. It was asked at this meeting if the Senior Center could be rented for senior events like class reunions, wedding anniversaries and birthday parties for ages 60 and over. Commissioner Hopes said the building initially was not intended for events because it would be competition with other businesses and entities like the Tuscan, the Ramada and the Event Center. The Council on Aging asked if the policy could be reviewed concerning renting the dining area for these types of activities. This also has the potential to bring younger family members to the facility than what was intended.

Debby said they do rent the classroom for a few things. She showed the rate schedule and feels that it needs to be raised. The classroom currently rents for \$15.00 for six hours. Prior to this, these groups, like the hearing check people were renting local hotel convention rooms.

Commissioner Hopes said the main dining room is not being rented out. Debby said the organ lessons use the main dining hall because that is where the organ is and they pay \$50.00 a month. It is usually the classrooms that are rented. Commissioner Hopes said the discussion was about renting the main hall for senior events like class reunions. If we rent the facility then it would require overtime hours for an employee to open the building and to be there to make sure things function properly. A bare minimum cost would be needed to compensate for the employee's wages to attend the event.

Commissioner Potter said he has similar concerns. We have the Event Center that is available for these types of events, which has its own problems. Would we want this kind of burden at the Senior Center?

Debby said renting was suggested because they are trying to raise money in order to fund Friday's meals again.

Commissioner Mellor asked what the overtime would be. Debby said most employees receive about \$12.50 an hour. After a discussion, the actual cost to the County would be just under \$200.00 for an eight hour event. Most events would not be longer than four hours.

Commissioner Hopes said the renter would need to pay a cleaning deposit and be responsible to clean up after their event. Debby said there is a cleaning deposit in place in the current policy.

Commissioner Hopes said there is also the cost of taking it from another venue which would affect restaurant fund money and sales tax.

Commissioner Potter said this is a wonderful senior center and we provide a high level of senior activities. There are patrons who donate to pay for the meals and some who do not, which is part of the problem. Even after making the changes, senior services still costs \$800,000. The public still believes that there is a pot of

money to pay for this, which is not true. We have cut where we can without cutting employees. He understands the need for funding but is not comfortable turning this into one more venue. There will be some County use of the building, but he feels to get into the rental business is a step in the wrong direction.

Commissioner Hopes said if the other rentable places were really busy where events couldn't be scheduled with them, then it might be another story.

Commissioner Mellor said it would be nice if senior events could be scheduled for free but it is not possible at the moment. Debby said the building would have to be rented, it couldn't be for free.

Julie said her concerns are with the Friday meal being taken away. Debby said the Friday lunches were the slowest day. The discussion continued concerning Fridays. Debby said the people on Mobile Meals still get the meal on Friday. Mobile Meals delivers frozen meals for the weekend throughout the week while they are delivering hot meals for the day. Mobile Meals do not drive on Fridays because the weekend meals have already been delivered.

The discussion continued on how the media is incorrectly reporting the meal issue despite meeting with Debby and the Commissioners.

Commissioner Potter said the cut is a savings of around \$200,000 and Debby said part of that is from East Carbon's Senior Center. East Carbon City came up with money to keep their center open on Thursdays. Some of the savings comes from not running the vehicles for a day.

Commissioner Hopes asked Debby to come up with proposals of what the rental rates should be and come back to the commission. Debby said if someone is just providing a service for free it's one thing but if they are selling something like hearing aids it's another.

Commissioner Hopes said because RSVP is no longer going to need office space, that area will be available. It has been proposed to turn that space into a gift shop in order to make money for the Senior Center. Debby said they have people making craft items all the time like pot holders, dish towels, ponchos and blankets and they are always donating them to the Center. This would be a place to display and sell them. A gift shop would have to be advertised to the general public. Debby does not have another use for the area at this time.

Seth said in theory that office could be sectioned off with exterior access without access to the rest of the building, however, it does not have separate bathrooms.

Commissioner Hopes doesn't know if the space can legally be used for a gift shop. Christian said it depends on where the money is going, if you are going to put it back into the Senior Center, then you would be okay. If you are going to lease it out for personal gain projects then probably not. Commissioner Hopes said volunteers would have to run the gift shop similar to how the library is run. He doesn't want to turn it into a second hand store of any type. Christian said the money raised could go to the Center or it could be donated to other charitable organizations. You couldn't use county space for people to make money for themselves.

Debby said you would need to advertise the gift shop and sell the items made by the seniors. It was asked if it could be a quilter's room too. Debby said the quilters don't really want to be there, they want to be out where all the people are. It is a social event. It could be a space to sell their quilts. Debby said they donate their quilts to the hospital, churches and other organizations.

Julie asked what happened to RSVP. Seth said their grant cycle ends the end of March. The funding amounts have been going down and the County has had to contribute more to keep the program running. Additional funding was not applied for past March 31st. Commissioner Hopes said he would have liked to see Rebecca move into another position at the County but she is still not well and is on medical leave.

Commissioner Hopes said in the Council on Aging meetings the discussion has been on how to fund Friday meals. East Carbon is open on Fridays and they have been doing pot luck dinners. Debby said Miners Trading Post is bringing in a meal once a month and others have shown interest in sponsoring lunches and bringing in food. They are getting better attendance on Fridays now.

Commissioner Hopes said the Price Senior Center is also looking into different avenues. AARP is going to sponsor meals once a month on April 1, May 6 and June 3. Debby figured the cost per day for just food is \$350, figuring on 100 people at a cost of \$2.33 per person. Commissioner Potter asked if this would be a sponsored prepared meal in our kitchen at the Center. Debby said the sponsor would pay the \$350 and the Center would make the food. They would make the food during the week while preparing the other meals, a simple meal like a hoagie sandwich, a potato or macaroni salad and maybe a sheet cake. They would also buy paper plates, cups, napkins and plastic utensils so that none of the equipment in the kitchen would be needed. If anything would have to be done Friday morning then the five remaining staff members would do it.

Commissioner Potter likes this idea; it gives ownership and helps solve some of the budgeting issues. Debby said the Tony Basso Group is also interested in sponsoring a meal on April 8th.

Commissioner Hopes said since the decision was made to cut Fridays, the seniors as a group, have become very involved. It has helped them realize how important it is and what the meals costs. He has attended meals at both centers and they are just as good as anywhere in town. The seniors are getting a good plate of food for \$3.00. Debby would like the non-senior rate to increase to \$10.00 because it costs more than this to produce the meal. The last time this was brought up, the thought was it would reduce the numbers of visitors. Birthday lunch and special holiday meals are the most expensive and these are the days they get the most non senior visitors.

Commissioner Hopes said maybe we need to look at this rate schedule too. Debby will bring this up at the next Council of Aging meeting.

Kathy Hanna Smith asked how AARP got involved. Debby said Leonard Miller told her that AARP sponsors meals. Kathy said it is important that we are all involved.

Debby said they are developing a brochure that explains all of the services offered by the Senior Center. She presented a draft of the brochure to the Commissioners. They would like it professionally published. There are a lot of things offered by the Senior Center that people do not know about.

Commissioner Potter asked that Debby bring back suggestions for new rates and meal prices to one of the April Commission Meetings. This may also bring more sponsors of Friday meals.

Julie Medley asked who covers the cost of meals for those who don't pay at the Senior Center. Debby said they do get some federal funding but the County pays for almost everything. Price City has also offered to sponsor a lunch. Debby said the seniors are doing a potluck lunch this Friday. Seth said it would be interesting to see what happens. Debby said the yearly picnic lunch is a potluck and they have a good turnout for it.

The conversation continued including how successful Friday meals might become and a need for more busses if Friday's become popular. There is a chance of having to amend the budget if needed. Seth said we have the nicest facility in the State and it is available to our senior citizens more than many centers statewide.

Commissioner Hopes said he has been asked how the County can fund the soccer fields but not fund the Senior Center. Soccer field money is from the Recreation and Transportation Special Service District and is earmarked for soccer fields. The County is only putting in matching money in the way of rough grading of the fields. Kathy said we should not pit one project against another; we deserve both the soccer fields and the Senior Center.

Debby said this is for our youth and they are funded by a community effort of grant money and other sponsors like the hospital. The Soccer Association is writing a grant to fund the lighting.

Commissioner Potter said it's the same dollars that built the Senior Center. The Recreation and Transportation Special Service District had the funding and a CIB grant is in place for the soccer fields. Those monies did not come out of the regular County budget.

Kathy asked about the north side of the old senior center on first south, and if that modular section was going to be removed. Commissioner Hopes said he would love to tear down the old dining room and restore the back part of the building to the original look. If the Boys and Girls Club stay, he would like to put in a little park to increase the curb appeal. Debby said the kitchen is in the annex that connects the two buildings. If you tear off the north section, the kitchen goes with it and the Boys and Girls Club use it for cooking classes.


Commissioner Hopes said there are certain parts of that building that cannot be used by the Boys and Girls Club. They continued to discuss the Boys and Girls Club Building, the condition of the modulars and how to make the building look better.

Kathy said that grass roots groups are becoming more and more active in our communities including organizing a gallery stroll in Helper, building ball fields and other projects that are good for our communities.

Commissioner Potter asked Debby to pick a day to attend the Commission Meeting and to schedule that with Sandy.

Commissioner Mellor made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hopes seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Oveson, County Clerk/Auditor


Jae Potter, Chairman

The seal of Carbon County, Utah, is circular. It features a central figure of a person standing next to a large wheel or cart. The words "STATE OF UTAH" are at the top, "County Clerk" is in the middle, and "COUNTY OF CARBON" is at the bottom.